

Appl. No. 10/743,588  
Amdt. dated February 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2004

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 1 - 8 are in the application for consideration. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments made in the claims and the statements appearing below herein.

1. The objection to the drawings has been overcome by the new set of formal drawings which have been submitted with this paper. The new drawings comply with the drawing requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 and have been made in accordance with the procedure specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.21(d). The new drawings are fully supported by the application as originally filed and do not include any objectionable new matter.

2. Claim 1 has been amended and now recites, in pertinent part

each of said plurality of pressure rollers having a length which is less than said first length and wherein the pressure applied to said drive roller by each of said pressure rollers can be adjusted independently of the others

The amendatory matter is fully supported by the application as originally filed and does not include any objectionable new matter. See, for example, Fig. 4 and the description at page 5, paragraph [016].

Claim 2 has been amended to even more particularly point out and distinctly claim the embodiment of

applicant's drive roller assembly recited therein. The amendment made therein is fully supported by the specification. See, for example, Fig. 5 and the description in paragraph [015].

New claims 5 - 8, which are drawn to preferred embodiments of the drive roller assembly, have been added to the application. These embodiments are supported by the description provided in the application. See, for example, Fig. 4 and the description in paragraph [016].

3. Claims 1 - 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,932,577 ("Weiss").

Claim 1, as amended, recites a drive roller assembly, which is patentably distinguishable over the references of record. As pointed out above, claim 1 now recites, in pertinent part,

each of said plurality of pressure rollers having a length which is less than said first length and wherein the pressure applied to said drive roller by each of said pressure rollers can be adjusted independently of the others.

Claim 1 now provides that each of the pressure rollers has a length which is less than the length of the drive roller and, further, that the pressure applied to the drive roller by each pressure roller can be adjusted independently of the others.

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Weiss does not teach each and every element of, nor does it suggest within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103, the drive roller assembly recited in amended claim 1. The reference does teach a media drive mechanism which includes two idler, or pressure, rollers (see idler rollers 30 and 32 in Fig. 1) in contact with a drive roller 38. The mechanism further includes compression mechanisms 34 and 36 which provide pressure to the drive roller.

The compression mechanisms are shown in detail in Figs. 3 and 4 and include compression pin 60. As illustrated in detail in Fig. 6 the compression pin applies pressure to idler rollers 30 and 32 through pivoting member 40 and idler roller attachment assembly 48. Thus, pressure is applied equally to both idler rollers.

The reference does not in any way suggest applying pressure independently to the idler, or pressure, rollers. Applicant's claimed drive assembly, with the ability to apply pressure independently to each pressure roller, can control the pulling force across the entire web and therefore allow the web to be transported through a printer in a desired path.

Reconsideration of the rejection and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

3. Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss in view of U.S.

4,720,714 ("Yukio"). Yukio has been cited for the teaching of a drive roller assembly having a rigid drive roller with a plurality of helical grooves in a hard outer surface.

Applicant traverses this ground of rejection. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1 and is patentably distinguishable over the references for the same reasons advanced above with respect to Weiss and, further, because Yukio does not teach or suggest the claimed drive roller assembly. Yukio teaches a printer which has a single platen roller 22 and a drive roller 32 (see Fig. 2). This reference does teach that the drive roller 32 can have helical knurls 54 on the surface (see Fig. 7) but does not teach or suggest a plurality of pressure rollers where the pressure applied to the drive roller by each of the pressure rollers can be adjusted independently of the others.

Reconsideration of this ground of rejection and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.


4. New claims 5 - 8 are each dependent upon claim 1 and therefore are patentable over the references of record for the same reasons advanced above.

In summary, claims 1 - 8 are in the application and have been shown to be proper in form for allowance and in substance to be directed to a wholly novel and patentable drive roller assembly. Reconsideration of the

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application and allowance of the claims are respectfully  
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

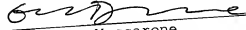
  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: February 24, 2005

  
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